

NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

Issue 13
October 2011
Editor
Gail M Cramer



The October Historical Society Meeting was held Oct. 5. We met at 5:30 for an “as usual” scrumptious meal. After the in-door picnic we gathered around in a semi-circle where we first heard Uncle Josh tell a story about “We ain’t got no Barber in Punkin Center”.

Bill and Sally shared many interesting and some funny stories about their 40 years in the barber shop business. Many of us had recollections of past barbers in Northville as Bill reminded us of many of them. Bill and Sally brought pictures and articles from his barber shop for show and tell.

THANKS AGAIN SALLY AND BILL FOR SHARING WITH US AND FOR THE FINE JOB THAT YOU DID.



Sally and Bill Gagne 10/05/2011



Barber Shop stories continued on page 3

CHRISTMAS PARTY



December 7, 4:30 p.m.
At the Cramer's Home
875 State Hwy 30



Bring a snack/finger food to share
AND

Please don't forget to bring
The history of the house where you live.

Suggestions

A picture, date built, other people who lived there, why did you chose to live there, how long have you lived there, did you build the house, and any stories related to the house.

Please **RSVP** at cramergm@roadrunner.com or call 863 2628

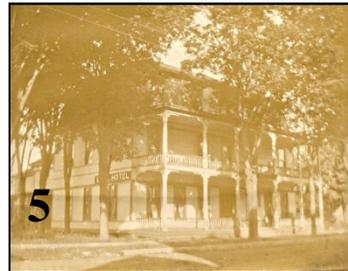
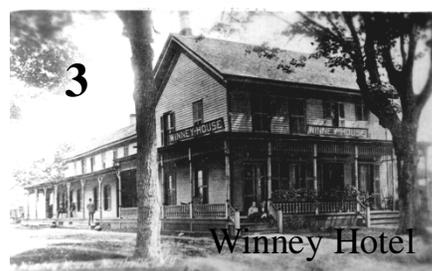
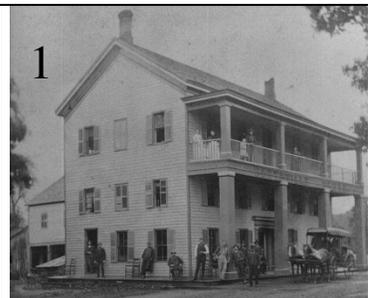
NORTHVILLE HOTELS

This week I prepared and presented to the Senior Citizen's Task Force, a Power Point Program on the history of the hotels in the village of Northville. There were many more in the Town of Northampton which included; Sacandaga Park, Fish House, Parkville and out-lying areas. I focused on just the 10 hotels in the village. I did include one that was just across the Northville Bridge (the St. James Hotel)

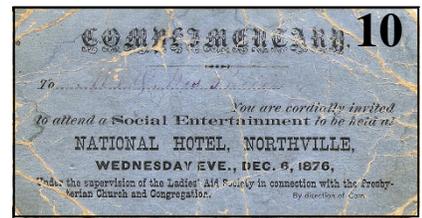
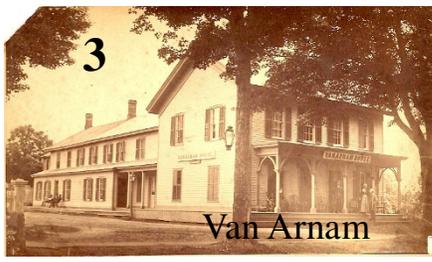
There is much history about each hotel. Hopefully one day I'll have the history of them on a website that will be available to be viewed by the public.

How many of these can you identify?

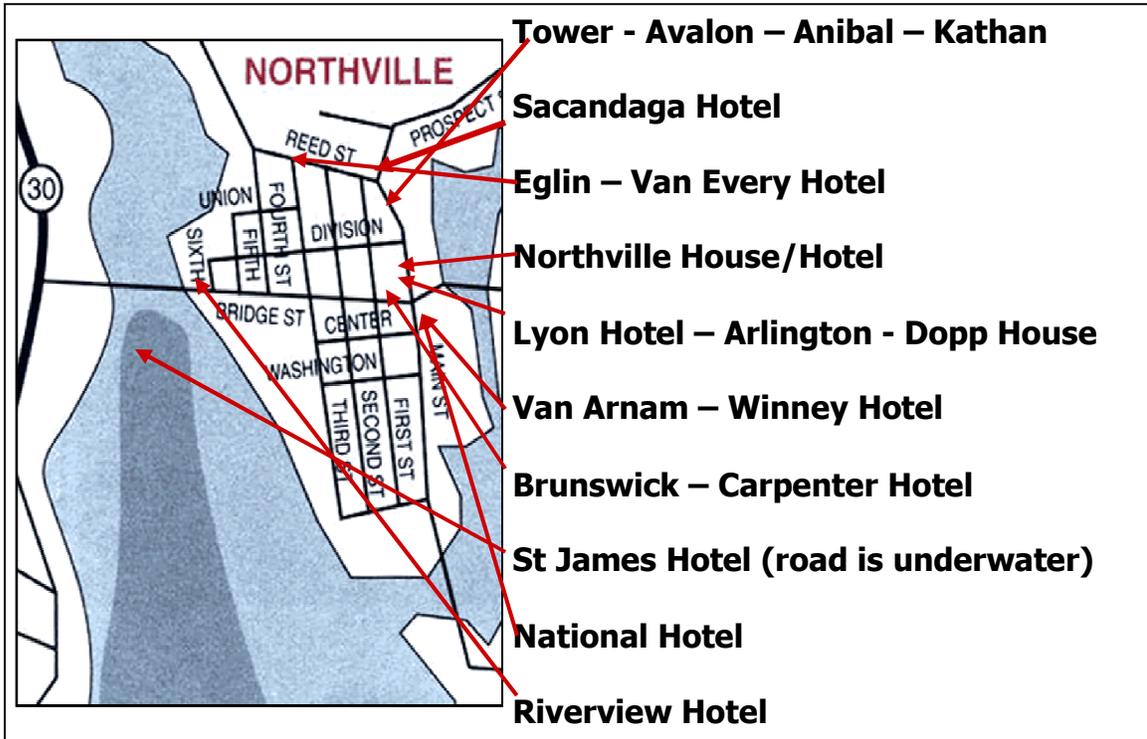
1. Northville House/Hotel Northville (the first hotel 1813, before and after it was rebuilt after a fire) Main Street
2. Eglin/Van Every Hotel Cor Reed and 3rd
3. Van Arnam / Winney Hotel S. Main St
4. St James Hotel Old road to the Park
5. Arlington/Dopp House/Lyon Hotel Main St
6. Brunswick/Carpenter Hotel Bridge St
7. Riverview Hotel Bridge St
8. Sacandaga Hotel Cor Reed and N. Main
9. Anibal/Kathan/Avalon/Tower Hotel Main
10. National Hotel S Main St.



SACANDAGA HOTEL
 (No photos)
 Built circa 1867 **8**
 Owned and operated by Gardner Winney
 It was a very luxurious hotel.
 It burned September 5, 1888



LOCATIONS OF THE HOTELS



Note: The Van Arnam/Winney Hotel was built on the site were the National Hotel stood before it burned.

Don't forget...Next years officer's will be voted on at the Christmas Party. The Nominating Committee may be approaching you soon. If you would like to hold an office, let them know of your desire.

The NNHS will not be meeting during the winter months. You will be informed of the date of the first meeting in 2012.



Did you lose this spoon at the October Meeting? Claim it any time or at the Christmas Party



NORTHVILLE BARBERS

- Severance
- Frank Chequer
- James McCullough
- Arnold Whitman
- And wife, Ruth.
- Edmund Richter
- Schreckerberger
- Arnold Whitman, Jr.
- Roy Whitman
- Walter Tetreault
- Washburn
- O. B. Olmstead
- Harmen Fisher
- Mahoney
- Willard Knowlton
- Bill Gagne



EXCERPTS FROM OUR SECRETARIES NOTES

(Part of Bill Gagne's Presentation to the Historical Society)

When George Chamberlain was 4 years old he came to live with the Gagne family. George grew up with the Gagne boys, who worked hard in the garden and taking care of the pigs and cows while their Dad worked in the woods. When Bill was old enough he also worked in the woods.

One summer Bill landed a job mowing the roadsides. Next he joined the army and he became a heavy equipment operator. After he got out of the army, he was invited to compete in some Woodsman's Competitions and found out he was good at it and joined the New York State Professional Lumberjacks. His team won many prizes.

He was already cutting hair at home and found out that he could go to Barber School while he was drawing unemployment. After completing Barber School, it was necessary to work with another barber. The local guys said no so he ended up working with a barber over in Saratoga for 22 months. When he was ready to go solo in 1971, he rented the little building on Main Street from Floyd Brownell, then he bought it. His first customer was Gene Hodlin.

Bill entertained us with quite a few Floyd Brownell stories. Floyd had quite a menagerie and a favorite story of mine was about the white rats. For some reason Floyd was told than he had to get rid of them so he just opened the door and let them go. Wouldn't you like to know the rest of that story?

Bill told us that in 1982 he fell off a roof and was badly injured, and how wonderful the Northville people were to come and help with whatever needed done for all the months it took for him to get back to work. It was this past winter when he became ill again that he and Sally wondered if it wasn't time to sell. They decided to put up a For Sale sign, if it didn't sell they'd keep on working. Almost immediately someone bought it. It was a grandson of Arnold Whitman, a former Northville Barber. John Whitman got the last haircut given in Bill's Barbershop.